

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, HU, US

SUBJECT: TRADE AGREEMENT

1. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED FROM SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE STAFF THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20 AT WHICH TIME THE APPROVAL RESOLUTION FOR THE US-HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED AND VOTED ON. THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER A BILL ON HOSPITAL COSTS COMPENSATION DURING THE SAME EXECUTIVE SESSION. A STAFF MEMBER TOLD US THAT THE HOSPITAL BILL IS A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE FOR THE COMMITTEE, WHEREAS, AT THIS POINT, THE TRADE AGREEMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SO.

2. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE PRESIDENT SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS ON JUNE 2 HIS RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND FOR ANOTHER YEAR HIS GENERAL AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT AND HIS AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE SPECIFIC WAIVERS OF SECTION 402 NOW IN EFFECT FOR HUNGARY AND ROMANIA. (TEXTS OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY.

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IT NOW APPEARS THAT VANIK'S TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS (WHICH ALSO COVER THREE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT) ON JUNE 15. WE EXPECT THAT

MAIN FOCUS OF THIS HEARING WILL BE ON ROMANIA RATHER THAN ON HUNGARY. VANCE

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